

## **Environmental Governance and Politics**

### **Description**

Environmental planning is more than finding problems and fixing them. Car mechanics, civil engineers, and tax attorneys find problems and fix them, or at least are expected to. The planner's work rarely stops there. In addition to finding and fixing, environmental planners must *negotiate* and *implement* their fixes within a more or less pluralist system of governance. To do so effectively — that is, to work the system — requires a deep understanding of how the system works. That motivates this course. The general idea is to discuss how local governments and other agencies can improve their environmental *governance*.

### **Texts**

William Fulton (1999) *Guide to California Planning*, 2nd edition, Solano Press.

Peter J. May, Raymond J. Burby, Neil J. Ericksen, et al. (1996) *Environmental Management and Governance*, Routledge.

The books are mainly concerned with the details of local convention and practice, just like real planners! The May, et al., book is explicitly about local environmental governance. “Many books have been written about environmental problems and prospects for addressing them. Much of the recent attention has focused either on the global environment or on regulatory instruments for preventing environmental harm.... This book addresses ... issues that arise when national or state governments try to persuade local governments to be good stewards of the environment.... There is a growing recognition of the failures of current environmental policy mandates and of the importance for environmental sustainability of local government decisions about land use and development. Many argue that future directions for environmental policy include less emphasis on regulatory prescriptions and greater reliance on local governments as partners in pursuing paths to sustainable futures.”

Fulton is more than the planning cookbook the title implies. Although it reviews laws and instructs “how to” plan in some detail, it also considers planning an essentially political process of give and take, conflict and negotiation. Some of the book considers environmental planning explicitly, such as CEQA and California natural resource initiatives and practices, while the remainder describes the broader planning apparatus relevant to environmental policy making and implementation.

## Course Requirements and Grading

<i>Date</i>	<i>Assignment</i>
Oct. 5	1 page list of questions about the readings
Oct. 12	1 page opinion essay, taking one side of an environmental governance issue (10%)
Oct. 19	5 page position paper (15%)
Oct. 26	1 page report on a meeting of a public agency or private organization (5%)
Nov. 2	Exam (20%)
Nov. 9	1 page opinion essay, taking 1 side of an environmental governance issue (10%)
Nov. 30	1 page memo analyzing an interview with an environmental policymaker (5%)
Dec. 7	5 page position paper (15%)
Dec. 14	Exam (20%)

**Note that each assignment is due at the *beginning* of class — at 2pm. Out of fairness to the other students, late assignments will not be accepted without permission except under unusual circumstances. Detailed instructions for each assignment will be provided in class.**

## Outline and Tentative Reading Schedule

### **Background: The problems and policy setting**

#### *Week 1. Examples*

Optional: Josef Leitmann (1999) *Sustaining Cities: Environmental Planning and Management in Urban Design*. New York: McGraw-Hill, ch. 3.

Optional: UNDP (1997) *Reconceptualizing Governance*. Discussion Paper 2, Management Development and Governance Division. New York: United Nations Development Programme.

#### *Week 2. Problems and practices*

Fulton, Chapter 1, “Introduction: How planning in California really works.”

Fulton, Chapter 4, “The structure of planning decision-making: Local governments.”

Fulton, Chapter 5, “The structure of planning decision-making: Other players in the process.”

## **Environmental problems: Surveys and Cases**

Fulton, Chapter 20, “Structure of natural resources protection.”

Fulton, Chapter 21, “Endangered species: A case study in natural resource protection.”

Fulton, Chapter 22, “Other natural resources issues.”

*Week 3. Environmental management: Governance challenges*

Fulton, Chapter 9, “The California Environmental Quality Act.”

Fulton, Chapter 11, “Growth management and growth control.”

## **Models of governance and governance reform**

*Week 4. Policy options*

May, et al., ch. 1 “Rethinking environmental governance”

Optional: World Bank (1992) *Development and the Environment*, World Development Report 1992. New York: Oxford University Press.

Optional: Josef Leitmann (1999) *Sustaining Cities: Environmental Planning and Management in Urban Design*. New York: McGraw-Hill, ch. 8.

*Week 5. Intergovernmental conflicts and reforms*

May, et al., ch. 2 “Coercion and prescription: Growth management in Florida”

May, et al., ch. 3 “Devolution and cooperation: Resource management in New Zealand”

May, et al., ch. 4 “Toward cooperative policies: Flood management in New South Wales”

*Week 6. Public/Private conflicts and reforms (and Exam on Weeks 2-5 readings)*

Fulton, Chapter 13, “The consequences of regulation: Land use regulation and property rights.”

## **Implementation: Getting solutions to work**

*Week 7. Policy design and implementation*

May, et al., ch. 5 “Policy to implementation”

May, et al., ch. 6 “A regional government role”

May, et al., ch. 7 “Local planning, compliance, and innovation”

Optional: Robert T. Nakamura and Frank Smallwood (1980) *The Politics of Implementation*. New York: St Martins.

Optional: James Q. Wilson (1989) *Bureaucracy: What Government Agencies Do and Why They Do It*. New York: Basic Books.

Optional: Anne Larason Schneider and Helen Ingram (1997) *Policy Design for Democracy*. University of Kansas Press.

*Week 8. Reform proposals*

Fulton, Chapter 23, "Making planning work in California."

May, et al., ch. 8 "Sustainable management strategies"

May, et al., ch. 9 "Examining outcomes of cooperative policies"

May, et al., ch. 10 "The commitment conundrum"

May, et al., ch. 11 "Prospects for cooperative intergovernmental policies"

Optional: Robert D. Putnam (1993) *Making Democracy Work*. Princeton. •8

*Week 9. Applications: Sprawl and Water*

Madelyn Glickfeld, William Fulton, Grant McMurrin and Ned Levine (1999) "Growth governance in southern California," Claremont Graduate University Research Institute, October 1999. <[www.ioe.ucla.edu/academic/CEE298/Governance4.pdf](http://www.ioe.ucla.edu/academic/CEE298/Governance4.pdf)>

Sierra Club "2000 sprawl report" <[www.sierraclub.org/sprawl/](http://www.sierraclub.org/sprawl/)>

EPA Region 5, "Antidotes to sprawl" <[www.epa.gov/region5/sprawl/index.html](http://www.epa.gov/region5/sprawl/index.html)>

Livable Communities Home Page <[www.livablecommunities.gov](http://www.livablecommunities.gov)>

Planners' Web "Strategies for dealing with sprawl" <[www.plannersweb.com/sprawl/sprawl5.html](http://www.plannersweb.com/sprawl/sprawl5.html)>

Optional: Pietro Nivola (1999) *Laws of the Landscape: How Policies Shape Cities in Europe and America*. Washington, D.C.: Brookings.

Optional: Randall Crane (1999) "Suburbanization and its discontents: A research agenda," draft.

*Week 10. Presentations of position papers*

*Finals week: Exam on Weeks 6-10 readings*